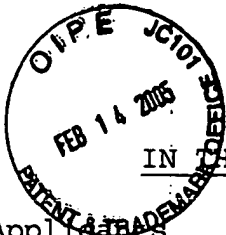


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AF/1725

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Takayuki Takahashi et al.
Confirmation No: 2825
Serial No. : 10/673,993
Filed : September 29, 2003
TC/A.U. : 1725
Examiner : L. R. Edmondson

Docket No. : 03-616
Customer No. : 34704

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.116

Sir:

In response to the Office action dated November 15, 2004, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire February 15, 2005, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on Page 5 of this paper.